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DATE : 01/01/0000
PAGES : 8

SUBJECTS :

DUPLICATE
VOL IV, COPY 5
UNIT INDEX
HELMS HEARING

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10 FEB 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. J. Lee Rankin

SUBJECT:

Information Developed by CIA on the Activity of Lee Harvey OSWALD in Mexico City, September 23 to October 3, 1963

1. This refers to your letter of January 10, 1964 relating to information forwarded by the Commission regarding the activity of Lee Harvey OSWALD in Mexico City during the period September 23 to October 3, 1963.

2. The second paragraph of your letter raises a question with regard to reports on current aspects of investigation in Mexico, or concerning Mexican leads in the OSWALD case. Specifically, that paragraph seems to refer to speculative information provided the White House by Jose L. LASACA which originated with Salvador DIAZ VERNON. CIA has nothing to add to the detailed investigation of this matter conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. We assume that the Commission is already in possession, or will be in the near future, of the details of the outcome of that investigation.

3. CIA is cooperating very closely with the FBI in the development of another Mexican lead, as is probably already known to the Commission. If in the course of this cooperation, CIA develops original, substantive material, it is our intention

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to report the details to the Commission concurrently with whatever is made available to the Commission by the FBI.

4. The following replies are keyed to the numeration of your letter of February 10:

1. We are not in a position to supply copies of telegrams sent between the Soviet Embassies in Washington and Mexico City.

2. Translations of the two police interrogation reports of Silvia DURAN are being forwarded to the Commission under separate cover.

3. From all the evidence on hand, we deduce that OSWALD visited the Cuban Consulate in Mexico City on the afternoon of 27 September 1963 and again some time on 29 September 1963. There is no evidence that he visited it more than once on the days mentioned, but we cannot exclude these possibilities. The wording in paragraph seven of our report, on pages four and five, is based on the statements of Silvia DURAN and means that OSWALD was at the Consulate at least once after his initial visit, and that this later visit was on the afternoon of a day on which the Cuban Consul telephoned the Soviet Consulate about OSWALD's visa problem. This may well have been 29 September, but we cannot be certain of this conclusion.

4. We do not know whether Cuban Consulate archives contained information on OSWALD antedating his September-October 1963 visit. From the statements of Silvia DURAN, one could conclude that she had never heard of OSWALD until he visited the Consulate in late September 1963. The file on OSWALD which Silvia DURAN mentions is the one she opened on him at that time and which she looked up again when OSWALD's name was published as the probable assassin of President Kennedy.

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5. We do not think it would be unusual for Silvia DURAN to tell OSWALD he could not have a Cuban transit visa unless he first got a Soviet visa. Such frank statements are quite common in consular practice, as far as we know.

6. We believe that Silvia DURAN's statement that OSWALD knew no one in Cuba meant literally that, and this would mean that no one there could sponsor him, vouch for him, or insure that he would not become a public charge. On the other hand, the remark of the Soviet official would seem to imply that the Soviets had no previous record of OSWALD, at least in Mexico, if indeed the Soviet official was telling the truth.

7. We believe that OSWALD both telephoned to the Soviet Embassy or Consulate, and was interviewed by officials there.

8. We cannot be sure what OSWALD meant by his allusions to his address. He went to Mexico while he was moving his family from New Orleans to Texas, and he may have acquired a new Texas forwarding address in the process which he gave first to the Cuban Consulate, then mislaid or forgot, and finally recovered from Cuban Consulate files so he could pass it to the Soviet Consulate. It could also be that he was talking about his Mexico City hotel address which he might have momentarily forgotten while at the Soviet Consulate.

9. The Cuban Consulate and Cuban Embassy in Mexico City are separate offices located in separate buildings that stand on adjacent lots separated by a Cuban official parking lot. The Cuban Consulate is on a corner at Marques and Zamora Streets and the Embassy is at 160 Marques Street. The Soviet Embassy and Consulate are both located in a large mansion with connected outbuildings.

10. We surmise that the references in OSWALD's 9 November letter to a man who had since been replaced

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must refer to Cuban Consul Eusebio AZCUE, who left Mexico for Cuba on permanent transfer on 18 November 1963, four days before the assassination. AZCUE had been in Mexico for eighteen years and it was known to us as early as September 1963 that AZCUE was to be replaced. His replacement did arrive in September. AZCUE was scheduled to leave in October but did not leave until 18 November.

We do not know who might have told OSWALD that AZCUE or any other Cuban had been or was to be replaced, but we speculate that Silvia DURAN or some Soviet official might have mentioned it if OSWALD complained about AZCUE's ~~slow pace~~ ~~inaction~~.

11. We have no additional information on OSWALD's activities in Mexico City. This part of the investigation was handled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation through its own facilities. All of our sources have been queried for further information but none has been developed. Neither pro- nor anti-CASTRO persons or groups have produced what we regard as hard information.

12. We can only guess why Silvia DURAN described OSWALD as a blonde. Perhaps his complexion seemed light to her, compared with that of most Latin Americans. When she was arrested, she had not seen OSWALD for about two months, but apparently she had noted him as a blonde in her Consular records.

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WH Division			MARKED FOR INDEXING
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ACTION REQUIRED - REFERENCES			

Please transmit the attached envelope to Fletcher M. KNIGHT only.

Willard C. CURTIS

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*att. sent DDP by c/u HD
30 Oct '63*

Attachment:
Envelope

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CROSS REFERENCE TO	DISPATCH SYMBOL AND NUMBER HMMA-22390	DATE 25 October
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